



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

Natural gas sales, March 1999	2
Sawmills and planing mills, March 1999 and first quarter of 1999	2
Consolidated government finance - assets and liabilities, March 31, 1996 (Actual)	3
Annual Survey of Manufacturers, 1997	3
Economic overview of farm incomes, 1996	4

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	5
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OTHER RELEASES

Natural gas sales

March 1999 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 355 million cubic metres in March, a 5.2% increase from March 1998. Unusually cold weather throughout most of the country resulted in higher sales to the residential (+7.9%) and commercial (+8.5%) sectors. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) rose 2.9% from March 1998, due to higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities.

Year-to-date sales to the end of March rose 5.8% from the same period in 1998. Sales to the residential (+3.5%) and commercial (+6.5%) sectors increased due to colder weather during the first quarter of 1999. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) continued to maintain strong growth, posting a 6.8% increase over the same period last year.

Natural gas sales

	March 1999 ^P	March 1998	March 1998 to March 1999
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	7,354,992	6,991,155	5.2
Residential	1,960,856	1,817,457	7.9
Commercial	1,376,454	1,269,011	8.5
Industrial	1,770,329	2,028,087	2.9
Direct	2,247,353	1,876,600	
	Year-to-date		
	1999 ^P	1998	1998 to 1999
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	23,165,820	21,902,975	5.8
Residential	6,554,694	6,335,489	3.5
Commercial	4,467,123	4,194,890	6.5
Industrial	5,622,954	5,994,209	6.8
Direct	6,521,049	5,378,387	

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The March 1999 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002-XPB, \$17/\$165) will be available in June. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gary Smallbridge (613-951-3567; smalgar@statcan.ca) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; talewis@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

March 1999 and first quarter of 1999

Sawmills and planing mills shipped 5,982.1 thousand cubic metres of lumber in March, a 6.4% increase from March 1998. Cumulative shipments for the first quarter of 1999 were at 16,370.7 thousand cubic metres, up 3.4% from the same period last year.

The strong demand from the construction industry in the United States, and to a lesser extent in Canada, contributed to the growth in shipments by Canadian lumber manufacturers.

U.S. housing starts declined slightly in February and March after peaking in January, yet still increased 13.1% over the first quarter of 1998. In Canada, housing starts increased nearly 6% from the last quarter of 1998.

In the first quarter of 1999, shipments increased 4.4% in British Columbia. In the B.C. Pacific coastal region, shipments were up 5.4% while production was down 13.1% compared with the first quarter of 1998. So lumber stocks which were relatively high in the last quarter of 1998 decreased gradually throughout the first quarter of 1999.

During the same period, lumber shipments rose in Quebec (+7.4%) and Ontario (+3.4%) over the first quarter of 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53 and 122 (series 2).

The March 1999 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills* (35-003-XIB, \$9/\$86) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Consolidated government finance - assets and liabilities

March 31, 1996 (Actual)

At March 31, 1996, government consolidated net debt amounted to \$837.0 billion, of which 69.1% was attributed to the federal government, 28.2% to the provincial and territorial governments and 2.7% to local governments. These data are presented on a Financial Management System (FMS) basis.

The FMS standardizes individual governments' accounts to provide comparable data. As a result, FMS statistics may differ from the figures published in government financial statements. In consolidating the data on an FMS basis, inter- and intra-government transactions are eliminated to avoid double counting.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3198 and 3254-3266.

Data are available through custom and special tabulations. For general inquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Viola Jabbour (613-951-0767; jabbvio@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufacturers

1997

The Annual Survey of Manufacturers provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released on CANSIM as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the following table are now available. To date, data for 213 industries have been released.

The industries listed in the table appear in *Manufacturing industries of Canada, national and provincial areas* (31-203-XPB, \$68) and *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers* (31-211-XPB, \$67). See *How to order publications*. In addition, a CD-ROM on *Products shipped by Canadian manufacturers 1988-1996* (31-211-XCB, \$430 for single use) is available from the Manufacturing Dissemination Unit at (613-951-9497).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality for this release, contact the person listed in the table below or (fax: 613-951-9827; monthug@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	1996	1997	1996 to 1997	Matrix	Contact	
	\$ millions		% change			
Industry (Standard Industry Classification)						
Soft drink (1111)	2,421.5	2,584.4	6.7	5402	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Platemaking, typesetting and bindery (2821)	1,151.6	1,167.0	1.3	5499	P. Zylstra	613-951-3511
Metal doors and windows (3031)	1,101.5	1,234.5	12.1	5521	É. Saint-Pierre	613-951-9837
Motor vehicle (3231)	47,902.0	52,715.3	10.0	5550	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Commercial trailer (3242)	698.5	851.9	22.0	5552	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Plastic parts and accessories for motor vehicles (3256)	1,989.2	2,337.9	17.5	5560	A. Shinnan	613-951-3515
Electronic computing and peripheral equipment (3361)	6,027.4	5,081.9	-15.7	5577	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Abrasives (3571)	298.2	300.1	0.6	6858	É. Saint-Pierre	613-951-9837
Other chemical products (3799)	2,908.0	3,024.6	4.0	6882	R. Sheldrick	613-951-7199
Jewellery and silverware (3921)	474.2	492.2	3.8	6888	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600
Sign and display (3971)	741.1	835.2	12.7	6892	R. Kowaluk	613-951-0600

Economic overview of farm incomes

1996

The second bulletin in the series *Economic overview of farm incomes* is now available. This series is published jointly by Statistics Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Economic overview of farm incomes offers farm financial information and analysis based on data from the Taxation Data Program and other agricultural surveys. The second bulletin provides a detailed analysis of grain and oilseed farms, including information on farm level revenues, expenses and net operating income before depreciation by revenue class

and by province. Information on the concentration and specialization of production, as well as on the physical characteristics of grain and oilseed farms, is also included.

Economic overview of farm incomes (21-005-XIE, free) is now available at www.statcan.ca under *Products and services*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171 or 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868) or John Cumming (613-951-7134), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Economic overview of farm incomes, 1996
Catalogue number 21-005-XIE
(Free).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March 1999
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB
(Canada: \$20/\$196; outside Canada: US\$20/US\$196).

Sawmills and planing mills, March 1999
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB
(Canada: \$9/\$86).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1999
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in attitudes on taking urban transit. Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 6.1 ps on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 13
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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